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## **YALift! (Young Adult Louisville Income for Transformation!) Guaranteed Income Pilot Project Shared Values and Principles**

### **Program Summary**

- The YALift! Program (Young Adult Louisville Income for Transformation) is a basic income pilot aimed at providing small cohorts of 18–24-year-olds with a one-year foundation of financial stability. The payments will be \$500/month for 12 months, no strings attached. The pilot is being collaboratively administered by Louisville Metro Government, Metro United Way, Russell: A Place of Promise, and Mayors for Guaranteed Income (MGI), and will focus on young adults in three neighborhoods of concentrated poverty: Smoketown, Russell, and California. Louisville is the 20<sup>th</sup> city to partner with MGI on a basic income pilot.

### **Beliefs & Rationales**

- We believe poverty is not a choice, but rather an institutional failure perpetuated by a systemic lack of resources.
  - *Systemic disinvestment and social welfare distrust have had inequitable effects on under-resourced communities.*
- We value the voices and livelihoods of our young adults. When our young adults succeed, we all succeed.
  - *The YALift! project will invest in expanding the capacity of young adults, allowing them greater flexibility to invest in their futures. A foundation of financial stability could allow these young adults to finish their education, provide for themselves and their families, pursue new career paths, etc.*
- Basic income should never replace the social safety net.
  - *As with Unemployment Insurance, guaranteed income should be in addition to—not in place of—existing social benefits, and provide a stronger foundation on which to build productive lives and careers. We are hopeful that providing such a foundation at a critical juncture of life will have long term positive impacts.*
- We are committed to serving our people and gathering the data necessary to inform better policymaking.
  - *The YALift! project will gather local data, stories, and independent research to complement a national push to advocate for a federal guaranteed income program. The results of Louisville’s pilot may ultimately provide a roadmap for basic income policies across the country.*
  - *We value the idea that we're contributing to the bigger national body of evidence/advocacy, but we will always value the wellbeing of our residents over our interest in data.*
- We will uphold commitments to collaboration and equity

- *We honor the time, strategy, and perspective put into this project. We were deliberate with racial equity, inclusion, and community at the forefront of this project.*